

Minutes
Public Transportation Committee
7/8/09

Present: Alex Ghiselin, Jim Nash, John Norton, Elysse Link, Leslie Stein, Jamin Carroll
from VATCO

Public Comment: Adria Golann of Jackson Street asked about the possibility of public transportation to the food coop, River Valley Market on North King Street. Committee members explained our previous efforts and difficulties with that location. She also commented on the placement of flag bus stops on Jackson Street and Jamin Carroll described the history of bus stops on that street and that bus drivers are instructed to stop 50 feet from intersections (like Jackson and Barrett Street) for safety reasons. Committee members acknowledged a federal grant that has been awarded to the city for some improvements to Jackson Street and that they will continue to work with Laura Hanson, the traffic engineer from DPW on the related bus stops issues. Jim Nash asked about the need for a bus shelter and Jamin Carroll explained that the locations on Jackson Street do not have the number of passengers at one time that would necessitate a shelter.

Minutes of 6/10/09 were approved with two corrections that Elysse Link was in attendance and the correct spelling of Tom Narrigan's name.

Progress on bus stops and signage: Jamin Carroll reported that some of the bus stop signs are going up soon and that they are waiting on some specifications from Mass Highway about the shelter in Florence.

Old Business: Jim Nash reported that the parents of children from the Hilltown Carter School have a petition that they will soon send to PVRTA about their concerns about the schedule of the Route 42.

Committee members made reference to their longstanding concern about the lack of a bus shelter at Smith College. Alex Ghiselin offered to contact the new safety person about this issue.

Leslie Stein had previously asked about the possibility of a shelter at the Masonic street bus stop. Jamin Carroll explained that the small area at the stop did not allow for a shelter that would be functional and accessible. He suggested that taking another parking space would make the stop safer and more functional as the bus often sticks out into the intersection as passengers get on and off. He noted that bus drivers report difficulty getting into the small space and that there are often cars parked in the bus stop. Leslie Stein agreed to call Bill Letendre at the Parking Division and ask that they attend to parked cars at that stop and at the Court House in the early morning.

New Business: Jamin Carroll reported that they are working on changes to the Routes 42 and 44 bus schedules for September.

Jim Nash offered to contact the new director of the Business Improvement District about our ongoing concerns about snow removal. He and Leslie Stein hope to meet with them soon.